



**STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH**  
**St Mary's in the Marketplace**

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**Service times at St Mary's**

**Sunday: 10:30am Holy Communion or  
Morning Prayer**

Normally the first and third Sunday is Holy Communion with Morning on the second and fourth.

**Tuesday: 10.00am Holy Communion  
12.15pm Lunchtime Service**

Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement.

St Mary's and the Nave Café is open – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 9.00am – 3.00pm



**STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH**  
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**Parish Magazine**  
**September 2016**



**50p**

**your contribution towards the cost of producing  
this magazine should be placed in the donations  
box please**

## September 2016

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion Baptism	10.30am 12.00
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	HERITAGE OPEN DAYS	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	HERITAGE OPEN DAYS	
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	HERITAGE OPEN DAYS <i>Extended Opening Hours</i>	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	HERITAGE OPEN DAYS Morning Prayer Nave Café Lunch	10.30am 1.00pm
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Gardening Club Coffee Morning ST ANDREWS	10.30am
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion Baptism	10.30am 12.00
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Weekend Harvest HOT POT Supper/Quiz	5.00pm
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Weekend Harvest Festival Service with Lisa & Steve Godwin	10.30am
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm

## Tuesday Lunch-time Service

### Introduction of plate collection

**As you will have read earlier St Mary's is struggling to stay ahead financially.**

We have therefore taken the decision that from September we will be including a "Collection" to our lunch-time service. **We do not however want anyone to feel pressured into financial giving and appreciate that many already give by "standing order" or use of our "regular giving" envelopes, or by placing a contribution in the donation box - for which we thank you.**

**If you give by one of these methods (as many of us do), or you simply don't feel that you can contribute at this time - simply pass on the plate and no one will think twice – that is exactly what the Sunday congregation do.** If you do want to donate cash and are a Tax Payer then please think about using one of the white envelopes which can be found at the church entrance (near the hymn books).

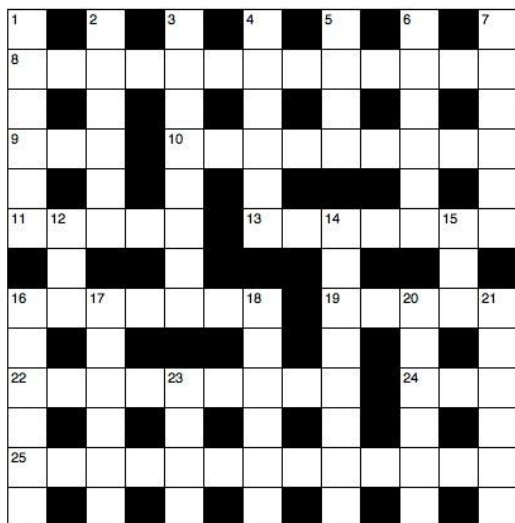
We trust that you will understand why we are taking this action – and support us as best you can.

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### Crossword Answer

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.



## CROSSWORD

### Across

8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)

9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)

10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)

13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)

16 'Jesus bent down and — to write

on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)

19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)

22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)

24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)

25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

### Down

1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)

2 See 24 Across

3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)

4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)

5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)

6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)

7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)

12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)

14 Second city of Cyprus (8)

15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)

16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)

17 Braved (anag.) (6)

18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)

20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)

21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)

23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

## Operation Christmas Child 2016

### – time to pack those shoeboxes!

Earlier this year, thousands of children in Liberia were delighted to receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, especially following that country's widespread trauma over the Ebola crisis. What joy we can give with relatively little effort or expense.

The Operation Christmas Child yearly campaign is all about providing some joy to deprived children in the developing world. "A simple Christmas shoebox gift is a 'treasure chest' for a child who has never received such a gift before. It is a powerful symbol of hope that someone, somewhere, cared enough to pack a gift meant just for them." In 2015, generous people across the UK packed 900,008 shoeboxes for children. These were sent to 14 different countries – their only Christmas gifts that year. Worldwide, 11 million children were given shoeboxes, "experiencing God's unconditional love through a simple gift." This year, OCC will be again supported by individuals, families, churches, schools, workplaces and community groups across the UK and that includes us!



## Holy Cross Day

We will not be at St Mary's on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, but worth remembering is the fact that it is "Holy Cross Day, when the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it. Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians. Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335. The sign of the Cross has been used without making the sign of the cross. What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are his. A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)



We are accustomed to holding this event at the other side of the garden fence, so being sat in the car park for the open air service was certainly different but most enjoyable. Our thanks to Rev Canon John Briggs for coming down to join us and lead our worship.

But whichever side of the fence we are there is one thing for certain – Chef Frank is a master of the BBQ!

Look out for more events at St Andrews and please try and join us for the Coffee Morning on the 12<sup>th</sup> September.





## **The Wellspring (Stockport)**

## **Harvest Gift List**

### **The Wellspring have requested the following items**

Tinned meats for sandwiches (corned beef, ham, luncheon meat)  
Tinned savoury pies  
Vegetable and meat soups  
Tinned potatoes  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned fruit  
Pie filling (sweet and savoury)  
Pickle  
Brown sauce / Tomato sauce  
Sugar  
Tinned rice pudding  
Tinned or packaged custard  
Biscuits  
Shower gel and (liquid) soap  
Shaving foam, razors  
Roll on deodorants (please no spray cans)  
Coffee

### **The Wellspring respectfully suggest that for the next year they already have adequate stocks of:**

Baked Beans / Kidney Beans / Chick Peas / Grapefruit / Prunes / Tinned Tomatoes / Sweet Corn / Tinned Salmon / Marmalade and Jam / Packets of Pasta and Rice, Tinned Spaghetti

**Eating is such an enjoyable pastime** - as well as a requirement of life of course, but we seem to do quite a lot of it at St Mary's – but all in a good cause! Our monthly (near enough) “Sunday Lunch at the Nave Café” events are a great success but we could do with casting the net a little wider and increasing our numbers (and our profit).

For September the format will be a little different as once again the Church will remain open to the public being a “Heritage Open Day” . There are of course FOUR such open days – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>, Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> (when Stockport Heritage Trust will be doing all sorts of things including holding a talk at St Mary's between 4pm – 6pm) and of course Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>. This time (unlike in August when we ran our monthly lunch on the same day at the Classic Car Rally and closed the café service from 12.00noon to 2pm) the aim will be for those of us booked in for lunch, to enjoy our meal, yet at the same time for us to be able to serve any “passing trade” that may wander in. Time will tell how that works out! Normal “Nave Café Sunday Lunch” to resume on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Slightly less complicated will be the “Hot Pot” Supper on Harvest Weekend (24<sup>th</sup> September 6pm) – and as the name suggests we will be serving something “hot” in a “pot” – well “slow cooker” actually! Look out for more details for that later on.

Our “Harvest Corner” is being set-up early this year, to give plenty of time for everyone to bring in items (as required) for the Wellspring. The list of requirements is printed in the magazine – if we could stick to these I am sure it would be most helpful to them. We will be delighted to welcome “home” to St Mary's for the Harvest Festival Service (Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>) Lisa and Stephen Goodwin who have agreed to lead and preach at our morning service (we'll have to wait and see as to who does what)!

## The Nave Café - New Initiatives

We want to encourage our regulars and visitors to stay and have lunch with us – and come back to see us time after time. We want to seek out new users and those wishing to use our facilities for a simple snack or for a group bookings. We want to expand our “out of café hours” activities and see what we can do to join in with our partner(s) on “Foodie Friday” as well as at other times.

In partnership with Pure Innovation we have decided to offer a **£4.00 Meal Deal** which will include a bowl of our “Soup of the Day” with a sandwich or toastie (of your choice) and a cup of tea or coffee. Depending on the choice of filling savings on normal prices can be between £1.00 and £2.10.

Taking on board some of the comments received on our survey forms we will (later in the year) serve an alternative “hot” meal, such as Hot Pot or Stew (during the Autumn/Winter) and see how well it is received by our customers. It may not be every day, but those when we see most customers. We will look further into Vegetarian alternatives and serving “real bean” coffee – Espresso, Cappuccino, Latte, Mocha and Hot Chocolate.

We will review our signage, advertising and other means of attracting attention – we have (according to our existing customers) a pleasant, peaceful and charming environment in which to escape the outside world.

The income from the café is essential to us and working in the kitchen an ideal opportunity for Pure Innovations clients to interact and learn new skills. What better “outreach” towards our goal of taking St Mary’s into the community and bringing the community into St Mary’s.

## Your Feedback - The Nave Café Customer Comment Sheets

Thank you to those 37 customers who completed forms and deposited them in the black “ballot box” which was opened only when Pure Support Team Co-ordinator, Paul Henderson-Griffiths was with us to discuss the management of the Nave Café.

The results being as follows:- (Score 3 = Neutral Score 4 = Somewhat agree with the statement given and Score 5 = Strongly agree with the statement given. No one scored 1 (Strongly disagree) or 2 (Somewhat disagree)

Score	3	4	5
The Nave Café was friendly and welcoming		3	34
The menu had an excellent selection of items		13	24
The quality of food was excellent	2	7	28
The presentation of the food served was excellent		6	31
The food was served hot (where appropriate) and fresh		6	31
The cutlery and crockery were clean / the café clean and tidy	2	5	30
The tables were quickly cleared and cleaned	1	12	24
The food was good value for money		4	33
The prices are competitive	1	4	32

With those scores we are more than happy BUT very aware that improvements can always be made.

## **St Mary's Financial Statement (half-year) 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**[accruals not taken into consideration at this time]**

Balance brought forward as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January	£12,643.85
Plus Income received (January-June)	<u>£46,349.21</u> £58,993.06
Less Expenditure (January – June)	<u>£53,081.84</u>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£ 5911.22</b>
<b>Due for transfer to Appeal Account £6,509.78 which if transferred would leave a negative balance of -£598.56</b>	

It isn't difficult to see that with an Income for the first half of the financial year of just £46,349.21 and an expenditure £53,081.84 we are spending more than we are receiving – to the tune of £6,732.

Our Business Account has been balanced and a reconciliation made to the Bank Statement, and as usual it isn't a very good read.... In fact we are heading into a situation of being extremely short of cash which is not a good sign as we approach the winter with heavy energy costs as well as arrears brought forward from previous accounting periods. We also have essential maintenance/repair to be completed, in particular the heating at St Andrews and electrics (part having failed once again) at St Mary's. Both of which will need to be paid for needless to say.

How worried is the Treasurer you might wonder, well VERY! Extremely concerned... We simply have to increase our income stream, in particular "regular giving" and income from the Nave Café. Fundraising and event income both being essential additions. We need to THINK BIG in more ways than one – paying our everyday expenses without worry and making St Mary's / St Andrew's financially secure for the future. A hard "ask" but nothing is impossible and we CAN do it. It's just a question of HOW!

## **HARVEST WEEKEND 2016**

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

**Harvest HOT POT Supper  
and Quiz at the Nave Café**

**£10.00**

**6.00pm**

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

**Harvest Festival Service  
10.30am  
with Lisa & Stephen Goodwin**

We are delighted to invite Stephen and Lisa to our special service on Harvest Sunday. They are familiar faces at St Mary's and look forward to being with us once again and to taking the service on this special day. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us for this celebratory service.

Both Stephen and Lisa are ordained clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





## Afternoon Tea / Outdoor Service & BBQ



### A wonderful start to our St Andrews Refurbishment Fund

Thank you everyone who supported our fundraising event on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August. One has to say that St Andrews is a fantastic building for holding such events as this and has a good sized kitchen for the preparation of refreshments,

but the building looks very sorry for itself and in need of TLC (tender loving care).

So that is exactly what we intend doing – decorating, replacing window blinds, tables etc. We have approval from the Insurance Company for the replacement of the flooring in both the large and small hall – but it would be nice if we could fund replacement of the flooring in the kitchen and toilets! The Insurance Company will pay for repairs to the areas damaged at the time of the break-in – nice if we could replace more of the window boarding, glazing etc. ourselves at the same time. All hands on deck: - cleaning, decorating, gardening and of course fund-raising. This first event specifically for funding the refurbishment raising £250 from ticket sales, donations and the raffle (kindly provided and organised by Carol Taylor).



### August “Sunday Lunch at the Nave Café”

Thanks to those who attended or otherwise supported the event. There were only a few of us this time round, with some of our regulars away on holiday, but nevertheless we will have raised in the region of £100 towards church funds as well as having had the pleasure of

meeting together and enjoying fellowship and friendship, being one of a major reasons for holding these lunch-time get-togethers. We can comfortably seat 24 for a sit-down 3-course lunch. For a party-style finger buffet we can cater for around 100. Plenty of room for more to attend – so why not join us next time round!

